



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry

76-5297/1

September 20, 1976

Dear George,

Here is the memo we discussed today. Joe has been writing speeches for me for ten years. I hope you can help him. I know he would do a terrific job for the intelligence community with his book.

Sincerely,

The Honorable George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

6-13 10 01 4.12

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

DDA

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI		X		
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA	X			
7	DDO		X		
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	Asst/DCI				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks: To 7: I gave [REDACTED] staff an advance copy since his office has been working on this.

STATINTL

STATINTL

B. C. Evans
 Executive Secretary
 27 Sept 76
 Date

FROM THE DESK OF
THE DIRECTOR

Executive Registry

76-52772

DD/A Executive

76-4842

Ben:

The v.p. called me personally
on this.
Will you please have someone see what
we can do to help this guy.
[REDACTED] says what he wants to
do will be a big plus for US
intelligence....

Please advise.

I must reply..

GB 9-22

STATINTL



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: Joe Persico *J.P.*
SUBJECT: Request for Assistance from
George Bush

I need your help.

I am writing a book in my spare time. It deals with OSS agents who penetrated Nazi Germany during World War II. Very exciting stuff. I have a contract with Viking Press to do the book.

Here is the situation. All the material I need to write the book has to be obtained from the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act. I have to make written application for the particular documents I want. CIA then reviews the material requested, declassifies it (which they usually can do, since I am dealing with events that took place over 30 years ago). CIA then makes xerox copies of the material and mails them to me. I am charged for the research time and for the xeroxing, which is only fair. This process takes at least eight weeks or more for each request.

Here is the problem. As in any research and writing effort, I can not know exactly what materials are going to be useful until I have had a chance to review them. But, I cannot even scan material -- which may or may not prove useful -- until I have gone through the time-consuming, expensive process described above for every document.

To put the problem into perspective, there were 102 of these missions into Nazi Germany. I intend to write about the eight to ten most successful and interesting missions. In order to do the job, following the present method, I would have to request all this material, wait

months, even years to get all of it, spend a fortune, to find the one document in ten that may be useful. Yet, I cannot know which tenth is going to be useful until I have reviewed the material in bulk. It is like buying a library to get the ten books you need.

What I need to write this book properly is to be allowed direct access to the material on these World War II OSS operations. I could then browse through the documents, find those which I really need, ask CIA to declassify them and xerox copies for me.

Would you be willing to call George Bush on my behalf and ask if such an arrangement as I have described can be worked out?

If it is a question of security clearance, I do not believe that this should be insuperable. I have recently undergone a rigorous FBI check in order to come to Washington to work for you. While in the Navy, I was a coding officer aboard ship and had the highest security clearance. I don't see why I could not be granted some sort of temporary limited clearance to review material for this book.

Actually, a principal beneficiary, if I can do a good job with this book, is going to be the CIA. One of the reasons that American intelligence enjoys so little public appreciation of its role is that the Agency is unable to crow about its successes, while its failures and faults are trumpeted on page one. One of my strong motivations in writing the book is to tell a graphic story of one of the most courageous and useful missions which American intelligence has ever pulled off. Yet, I am running into discouraging obstacles in getting the information I need.

The British are very adept at this sort of thing. It is no accident that British Intelligence is spoken of in reverential tones, while American intelligence is suspect. There is more to it than the protection British intelligence enjoys under the Official Secrets Act. An aura, a mystique of success has been generated about British intelligence. And it has been generated largely by books. In the past year alone at least three books have been published which became bestsellers and which put British intelligence in the most flattering light. They are:

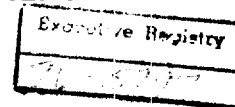
The Ultra Secret -- on breaking German World War II codes.

Bodyguard of Lies -- intelligence cover up of the D-Day landings.

A Man Called Intrepid -- the story of World War II British Secret Service and its leader.

These books could not have been written without the cooperation of the British government. I seek the same kind of cooperation from our own government.

Perhaps, if you could call George Bush and forward a copy of this memo, something could be worked out. I share your view that intelligence is not properly understood in our Country. The book I am writing will help place American intelligence in the kind of light it deserves.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Bush,

I know that Vice President Rockefeller has been in touch with you regarding the book I am writing on World War II OSS operations inside Germany.

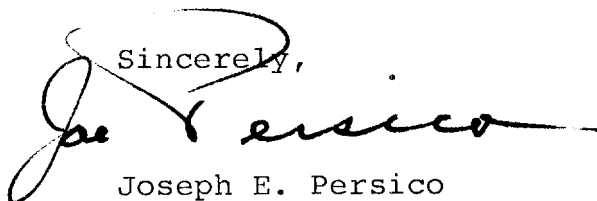
I am very much looking forward to whatever help you can give me so that I can give this fascinating intelligence story the first-rate treatment it deserves.

My memorandum to the Vice President, which he has forwarded to you, explains the special problems I am trying to overcome. None of these grow out of the CIA personnel who have assisted me thus far. Your people have been just as helpful and understanding as they can within the limits of manpower and the established procedures, Mr. [REDACTED] has been particularly helpful.

STATINTL

However, the problems which I have, even with the staff's cooperation, only underscore the need for the kind of assistance I have requested. I will be deeply grateful for your help in overcoming these obstacles.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Persico

The Honorable George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505